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to observing this fern is in much danger of mistaking the half-unfolded sterile fronds for sports. Along the upper Hudson river, it seems to me that the immense beds of *Orontium* are rather increasing than diminishing.

Western New York explorers know well how many springs in the region of the parallel lakes boil suddenly up from a hole in the rock, with water of the coldest and clearest; and how the stream thus formed almost invariably fills with thriftiest edible water cress. Seeing some such phenomena again a few days since reminds me of one almost exactly the same in the island of Cyprus. While travelling about the island with General di Cesnola, we came to a beautiful grass plat (an uncommon thing in the East) not far from the ruins of Soli, along the shore. About a dozen such springs boiled out of the ground, and furnished not only life to this grass-plot, but each sent its rapid stream through it or along its edge, when all joined and rushed into the sea, over a bar of quicksand that nearly swallowed up one of our men and mules. In each of the streamlets, and in the main stream as well, was an abundance of thrifty water cress, identical in species with that so commonly eaten in the oyster saloons in New York City. I never saw it elsewhere in Cyprus. At my suggestion, a quantity was gathered for our supper, and eaten by all with great relish, though I had to separate it carefully from a little poisonous umbellifer, whose name I have forgotten, and which grew in the midst of the cress and much resembled it. I might add that the only mention of this place of springs to be found in earlier writers was made somewhat more than a century ago by an ecclesiastic, who describes the place unmistakably, but mistakenly speaks of the springs as hot and medicinal.

One more note will do. As Mr. Redfield can inform you, the Philadelphia markets are an excellent locality for botanists who wish to get fresh specimens, in proper season, of most of the pretty plants of the New Jersey Pines. This spring large quantities of the wild *Viola tricolor* were brought in, but I could not learn their precise habitat.

June 18th.

I. H. HALL.

§ 322. **A New Theory in regard to Galls.**—Insect galls, which are usually regarded as excrescences—a diseased condition of vegetable tissue, resulting from the injection of some fluid or secretion by insects—are viewed by Mr. A. S. Wilson, of Aberdeen, from an entirely different standpoint. This gentleman, in an interesting communication to *Nature*, says that all insect galls are in reality leaf-buds, or fruit-buds, and not mere amorphous excrescences. The vascular lines which would form leaves can easily be followed up the structure of the oak-leaf galls. And in cases where the egg has been deposited in the tissue of a young branch, the cap of the gall is sometimes surmounted by a leaf two or three inches long. But in the large blue Turkish galls many lacunæ occur where the fleshified leaves have not filled up the spaces between them. Mr. Wilson promises before long to work out the morphology of the hollow woody shell, and the enclosed starch, etc., found in the interior of these

galls. He states that if a dissection be made of one of the weevil galls on the bulb of the turnip, the second or third slice will show the outer foliations, exactly similar to those of the root buds. When the centre has been reached, where the maggot will be found, there will also be found a vascular pencil running up from a medullary ray in the bulb, and bearing on its top a bud of the same description as that produced by a ray running out from a root. The insertion of the insect's ovipositor brings a medullary ray into action, producing a tuberculated bud, and it is only the bud which the larva feeds upon. The author thinks the growth of a bud is an intelligible cause of the growth of a gall, but that we can infer nothing from the injection of a fluid. These statements seem to merit further examination, for if "oak-spangles," button-galls, and a host of like productions are really leaf-buds, they are certainly developed in very abnormal situations.

§ 323. **Washingtonia.**—The name *Washingtonia*, which was proposed by Kellogg to displace Lindley's *Wellingtonia*, and both of which had to give way before Endlicher's *Sequoiä*, is now proposed for a Palm which has hitherto been referred to two different genera. This Palm, first known as *Brahea filifera* and then as *Pritchardia filifera*, is believed by Mr. Hermann Wendland (*Botanische Zeitung*), to possess sufficient differences to constitute it a species of a genus different from that of *Pritchardia*, and which he would name, as above stated, *Washingtonia*.

§ 324. **Peteris aquilina**, *var. caudata* is frequent in Southern New Jersey and Delaware.

**Cyperus ovularis**, *var. cylindricus* (*Mariscus cylindricus*, Ell.), is the prevailing form in Southern New Jersey and southward throughout the Delaware peninsula. WM. M. CANBY.

§ 325. **Notes from New Jersey.**—On Saturday I noticed some very large trees of *Sassafras* on the road from West Orange to Livingston. I measured the largest one and found it three feet in diameter three feet above the ground, towards which it increased rapidly in size.

The following plants have recently been found in Franklin: *Floerkea proserpinacoides*, Willd.; a double and rose-tinted variety of *Rubus villosus*, Ait.; *Pogonia verticillata*, Nutt.; *Conopholis Americana*, Wallroth; *Medicago maculata*, Willd.; and a dwarf variety of *Azalea viscosa*, L. [*var. nitida*?]. Of this variety I found no specimen over a foot high, but the flowers were larger than any I have ever seen in the typical form. In Bloomfield: *Nasturtium sylvestre*, R. Br., and *Leucothoe racemosa*, Gray. In Montclair: *Obolaria Virginica*, L.; *Cypripedium parviflorum*, Salisb.; *Monotropa Hypopitys*, L., and *Silene inflata*, Smith.

The *North Jersey Botanical Club* was formed on May 7th, and has already resulted in the introduction of the study into several schools. *President*, H. H. Rusby; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Miss Grace E. Cooley, Bloomfield; *Executive Committee*, Charles M.